

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:  
determining that an I/O model is a driver model;  
characterizing an I/O model the I/O model, wherein the characterizing further  
comprises performing a simulation of driver output open circuit voltage;  
creating a set of behavioral models based on the characterizing, wherein the  
behavioral models are independent of cycle time, input pattern, and process points; and  
comparing the set of behavioral models to the I/O model.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
selecting a simulator input fragment for the characterizing.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
calculating a driver equivalent output impedance.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the comparing further comprises:  
creating decks comprising a net topology for the I/O model and the set of  
behavioral models;  
simulating the decks; and  
comparing output from the simulating.
6. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:  
means for determining that an I/O model is a driver model;  
means for selecting a simulator input fragment;  
means for characterizing the I/O model ~~an I/O model~~ using the simulator input  
fragment, wherein the means for characterizing further comprises means for performing a  
simulation of driver output open circuit voltage;

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means for creating a set of behavioral models based on the characterizing, wherein the behavioral models are independent of cycle time, input pattern, and process points; and

means for comparing the set of behavioral models to the I/O model.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the means for comparing further comprises:

means for creating decks comprising a net topology for the I/O model and the set of behavioral models;

means for simulating the decks; and

means for comparing output from the simulating.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the means for characterizing further comprises:

means for calculating current-voltage curves for driver output.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the means for characterizing further comprises:

means for calculating voltage curves for an initial high driver model.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the means for characterizing further comprises:

means for calculating driver book delays.

11. (Currently amended) A signal-bearing medium encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed comprise:

determining that an I/O model is a receiver model;

selecting a simulator input fragment;

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characterizing the I/O model ~~an I/O model~~ using the simulator input fragment,  
wherein the characterizing further comprises calculating a high-to-low receiver threshold  
voltage of the receiver model;

creating a set of behavioral models based on the characterizing, wherein the  
behavioral models are independent of cycle time, input pattern, and process points; and

comparing the set of behavioral models to the I/O model, wherein the comparing  
further comprises:

creating decks comprising a net topology for the I/O model and the set of  
behavioral models,

simulating the decks, and

comparing output from the simulating.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The signal-bearing medium of claim 11, wherein the characterizing further  
comprises:

calculating a low-to-high receiver threshold voltage.

14. (Original) The signal-bearing medium of claim 11, wherein the characterizing further  
comprises:

calculating input impedance.

15. (Original) The signal-bearing medium of claim 11, wherein the characterizing further  
comprises:

calculating input capacitance.

16. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when  
executed on the processor comprise:

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determining that an I/O model is a receiver model;  
selecting a simulator input fragment comprising configuration information,  
characterizing the I/O model~~an I/O model~~ using the simulator input fragment, wherein the characterizing further comprises calculating a high-to-low receiver threshold voltage of the receiver model,  
creating a set of behavioral models based on the characterizing, wherein the behavioral models are independent of cycle time, input pattern, and process points, and  
comparing the set of behavioral models to the I/O model, wherein the comparing further comprises:  
creating decks comprising a net topology for the I/O model and the set of behavioral models,  
simulating the decks, and  
comparing output from the simulating.

17. (Original) The computer system of claim 16, wherein the characterizing further comprises:

calculating receiver input slop compensation numbers.

18. (Original) The computer system of claim 16, wherein the characterizing further comprises:

calculating dynamic receiver input noise thresholds.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The computer system of claim 16, wherein the instructions further comprise:

selecting a base skeleton file comprising process, voltage, temperature, and rise/fall times.

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